

February 28, 2018

Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue, NW Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268

RE: Docket RM 2017-3

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of Amergent and the nonprofit organizations we serve we urge the Commission to reconsider the proposed rate increases for nonprofit organizations. Our organization relies on the United States Postal Service to raise funds and to communicate with our donors and supporters.

Amergent's clients utilize the mail to raise monies to accomplish their missions. Our clients include food banks, animal welfare and relief nonprofits.

The Postal Service plays a vital role in supporting the philanthropic sector. For Amergent's clients it is the primary method they use to communicate with their supporters and raise the funds needed to carry out their mission.

We have grave concerns about the negative impact the proposed rate increases – substantially above the rate of inflation – will have on our client's ability to accomplish their mission. If adopted as proposed, these rate increases will force our clients to reduce mail volume which will inevitably result in reduced revenue, and in turn, will force our clients to reduce the services to those who depend on them.

We believe the current rate setting system where postal rates are tied to the Consumer Price Index should be maintained. It has succeeded in generating the funds necessary for the Postal Service to meet its ongoing operational needs, while also providing those that rely on the Postal Service with a stable and predictable rate structure. This is critical to our clients' ability to continue to use and rely on the mail.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and we appreciate your review and consideration on behalf of our organization.

Sincerely,

Edward P. Locke

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE